

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES: George Cress, Jeff King, Mark Nakajima, Guy Storms, Kelly Marks, Bruce McVean, Brian Wilbur, Don Jones, Hope Kramer, James Draznin, Tim Budelman, Lois Hornberger, Mark Frandsen, Elena Uhing, Dick Stenson, John Hayes.

CITY STAFF: Mayor Pete Truax, Michael Sykes.

ALSO ATTENDING: Eddie Rios (reporter w/ the Forest Grove Leader), Pam Treece (guest speaker from Westside Economic Alliance).

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order @ 12:14 p.m. by EDC Chair Tim Budelman.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 6TH, 2014 SUMMARY MINUTES:

Don Jones moved to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Kelly Marks seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS & STAFF SUMMARY:

None.

5. BUSINESS:

A. McMENAMIN'S HOST UPDATE:

None.

B. FOREST GROVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE:

None.

C. GUEST SPEAKER, PAM TREECE, WESTSIDE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE:

Guest speaker, Pam Treece, from Westside Economic Alliance (WEA) started out by introducing herself to the group. Pam has been the Executive Director @ WEA for the past 15 months. She briefly shared her background, stating that she was a physical education teacher for many years prior to joining the private business world, where she then worked for Pacific Power for 21 years. Next, Pam was very pleased to welcome Pacific University as a new WEA member. She then handed out WEA's Annual Report, and briefly explained that WEA is an advocacy organization that brings together the private & public sectors. WEA represents all of Washington County, and the west side of Clackamas County. Their mission is to support the economic vitality of those they represent. Pam is a registered lobbyist. She stated that the WEA always tries to find the middle of the road or a common ground as they approach each issue presented to them. She said that the WEA is not focused on education reform, but rather on educational economic strength, pointing out that a region cannot attract new businesses without a strong education system. Pam shared an interest in possibly having a member event in Forest Grove similar to those that have been held in Beaverton & Tualatin in the past. She mentioned that the WEA has been extremely busy in the past year, and that both attendance and membership are up at this time. Lastly, Pam welcomed any questions or comments from the Commission. She answered many questions posed to her, and gave insight as to how the WEA is approaching various issues that have been brought before them.

D. THE "GRAND BARGAIN" LAND USE BILL:

Since Community Development Director, Jon Holan, was unable to attend today's meeting, Michael Sykes gave a brief overview of the Grand Bargain Land Use Bill. Michael said that this bill identifies property both north and south of Forest Grove and will bring it in to the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Michael mentioned that Mayor Truax has helped greatly in this situation as he has developed strong ties and relationships with other mayors of nearby cities, and this has helped to expedite this process. Michael said the City would like to see the area to the north expand all the way to Purdin Road, but that farmers in the area felt that Council Creek should be the northerly border. To the south of the City, a parcel just under 40 acres is now in the UGB. Michael pointed out that without the cooperation of various city mayors and

other representatives working together, that this type of a deal could've taken up to 10 to 15 years to accomplish. Mayor Truax agreed, and added that without the Grand Bargain there would have been no more agreements on the UGB for at least 5 years. This deal allows for buildable expansion both north and south of the City.

E. BOARD VACANCIES:

Jeff King said that there is still just one slot to fill as far as board vacancies. He said the Commission still has a decision to make whether to fill the spot with a representative from the wood products industry, or from the food & drink/wine industry. Mark Frandsen mentioned that maybe the best criteria to consider is which candidate seems likely to be the most engaged and excited about serving on the EDC.

6. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

Elena Uhing said that the CEP applications have been submitted by Jeff King, and that they come before the City Council on April 22nd, 2014. Elena then mentioned that the budget process for the City's new fiscal year beginning in July 2014 will begin on April 23rd, 2014, and asked that those who can to please attend the budget sessions as it really helps to have both City employees and the public attending these sessions. Next Elena said that she was able to attend the State of the County address given this year by Andy Duyck @ the Nike Campus, and that approximately 240 people were in attendance. At the address it was pointed out that 23% of the population in Washington County speak a language other than English as their first language. Also, WA County currently has only a 5.8% unemployment rate which is good, and approximately 20 new jobs a day are being created within the County. These numbers are currently better than even Portland, and all other counties in Oregon. Elena reported that among the topics discussed were affordable housing, living wage jobs, homelessness, transportation, infrastructure, quality of life issues, water importance in Oregon, sustainable housing, farming, and Hagg Lake.

Next, Mayor Truax covered a few topics briefly. He stated that the City of Forest Grove is considering banning smoking and tobacco use in City parks and at public events sanctioned by the City. The City is also considering changing the policy of back yard burning, not to ban it all together, but to narrow it down quite a bit to only five days a year. He then mentioned that the first ever “Coffee with a Cop” event was held at B.J.’s Coffee Shop recently and was well attended by both police department employees, and the public. Mayor Truax reported that Oregon Poet Laureate, Paulann Petersen will be at the Forest Grove Library on Saturday, April 12th, 2014 from 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

7. STAFF & BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:

Lois Hornberger quickly mentioned that the Pacific University’s 54th Annual Luau will be held on Saturday, April 12th, 2014 beginning @ 4:30 p.m.

8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

EDC Chair Tim Budelman announced that the next meeting of the EDC will be on Thursday, May 1st, 2014 @ 12:00 noon in the Alice Inkley Room @ McMenamin’s Grand Lodge.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned @ 1:37 p.m. by EDC Chair Tim Budelman.

Approved by the Forest Grove Economic Development Commission:

Date: _____

EDC Chair